



*Great Ouse  
Branch*

# **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Thursday, 22nd March 2018**

*This will be followed by an update  
from a River Manager of the  
Environment Agency.*

*Please forward any questions to be directed to  
the Environment Agency to our Secretary  
[john.hodgson@waterways.org.uk](mailto:john.hodgson@waterways.org.uk)*

# Ouse News - Appendix 1

**Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Great Ouse Branch of the Inland Waterways Association will be held on Thursday, 22nd March 2018 at the North Lodge Pavilion, North Lodge Park, Milton, Cambridge, CB24 6UD at 8.00 p.m.**

## **AGENDA**

1. Chairman's welcome and apologies for absence
2. Approval of the Minutes of the AGM held on 23rd March 2017 - printed in Appendix 2
3. Matters Arising from those Minutes, not included on this agenda
4. Chairman's Report - printed in Appendix 3
5. Secretary's Report - printed in Appendix 4
6. Treasurer's Report and presentation of accounts - printed in Appendix 5
7. Election of Branch Committee
8. Any Other Business
9. Close of Meeting

**Notes:** (following the amendment of Byelaws dated 14/3/09)

1. Accounts are audited by IWA Head Office. There is no need to adopt the accounts or appoint an auditor.
2. There is no longer any limit to Committee numbers. Members serve for 3 years after which they retire but may seek re-election.
3. There are 2 committee members due to retire by rotation : Gail Mead and David Anderson. Having been co-opted to the committee Sharon Oliver is to be substantively elected.
4. New Committee Members are most welcome. Those who would like to stand must sign the consent form below and send to the Branch Secretary, John Hodgson (9 Beaufort Way, Brickhill, Bedford, MK41 7XQ) *before the AGM.*

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## **INLAND WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION CONSENT FORM**

I agree to stand for election at the Annual General Meeting of the Great Ouse Branch. I am a member of the Great Ouse Branch.

(Sign) ..... Print Name .....

Date .....

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### **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Great Ouse Branch of the Inland Waterways Association on Thursday 23 March 2017. Held at the Community Centre, Milton, Cambridge at 8.00 pm.**

Present: Keith Alderton (Chairman) plus 20 branch members.

1. Apologies for absence.

The meeting was opened at 8.05 pm and the Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Jonathan Mead, Peter and Jean Webb.

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 24 March 2016

The minutes of the previous AGM, having been previously circulated as Appendix 2 to the Spring issue of Ouse News, were proposed as a true record of the meeting by Derek Bradley and seconded by Keith Alderton. This was agreed unanimously.

3. Matters arising from the AGM on 24 March 2016

There were none.

4. Chairman's Report

The Chairman's report was similarly included in Ouse News in Appendix 3. There were no questions for the Chairman. He added that the membership numbers were falling slightly which is a national trend. Also he explained the proposed change of meeting venue to the North Lodge in Milton, not far from the present meeting place.

5. Secretary's Report

The Secretary's report was also printed in Ouse News as Appendix 4. There was nothing to add to these notes. There were no questions for the Secretary.

*Cont'd.*

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## **Ouse News - Appendix 2 cont'd.**

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### **6. Treasurer's Report.**

The Treasurer's report and accounts were available in Appendix 5 of Ouse News. It was pointed out that costs are held down by inviting low cost speakers where possible. There were no questions for the Treasurer.

### **7. Election of Committee Members.**

Carole Alderton, Enid Hodgson, Keith Alderton and John Hodgson were all due for re-election as their three year term of office had ended. All were eligible and available for re-election. The meeting was content to elect them en-bloc; proposed by Stephen Foote and seconded by Derek Bradley. All were elected unanimously.

The Secretary added that after that 3 year term he will have been Secretary for 15 years which is too long as a new approach is always welcome. He asked for a volunteer to take over then. It was also pointed out that there are other vacancies on the Committee, in particular an organiser for the branch meetings, speakers, etc.

8. There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.14 pm.

## **Ouse News - Appendix 3: Chairman's Report 2017-2018**

As always it has proved to be yet another very busy year for the branch committee and other helpers. Our small but active team has put on a full programme of lecture meetings, visits and events throughout the year. Without their efforts the branch would become moribund and I thank them wholeheartedly on behalf of all members for giving up so much of their time.

We kicked off the year in April with a visit to the Prickwillow Drainage Museum, when 20 members and friends were given an informative talk and an opportunity to see some of the large diesel engines running.

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## **Ouse News - Appendix 3 cont'd.**

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Later on in April/May over the Early Spring Bank Holiday weekend we once again manned our two gazebos at Reach Fair, one for waterways merchandise and one for children's activities. The annual dinner at the Dykes End pub was much enjoyed as usual. In May, volunteers from the branch tackled Jesus Lock on the River Cam, giving the lock gates, paddle gear and swing bridge a smart new coat of paint. We ended our spring/summer activities in July with our stand at Ely Aquafest.

Our off-season programme began in October with a talk by Nick and Gina Mead about their experiences running their up-market hotel boat Lady Teal. Although they are members of our branch they normally ply their trade on the northern waterways including the Leeds and Liverpool Canal.

In November, our last meeting at Coles Road Community Centre, consisted of a film and presentation about the Littleport Riots by Debbie Curtis of the local Field Theatre Group.

February saw us at North Lodge Pavilion for the first time with a presentation by representatives of Project Hereward regarding the restoration of Welches Dam Lock and the 40-Foot River navigation.

Branch committee members have also been very active supporting HQ staff lobbying for more funding for the Anglian Waterways and fighting the sale of sections of the Ely Waterfront by the Environment Agency.

I am pleased to say that after many years absence we at last have an active IWA Eastern Region Chairman, Chris Howes. We look forward to working with Chris and other branches in the region in the coming year.

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## **Ouse News - Appendix 4**

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Lastly, I would like to thank our advertisers The Boat Yard, Mark Douglas Marine, Fox Narrowboats, The Ship at Brandon Creek, St.Ives Engine Services and Ely Boat Chandlers for their continued financial support.

*Keith Alderton*

### **Ouse News - Appendix 4:Secretary's Report 2017-18**

I usually start my report with a comment on the membership numbers and this year I can report that they have shown an up and down trend over the year finishing almost the same as the beginning – lower by 2 memberships and 6 members - which is a little better than the national trend. At the time of writing, the latest number we have from Head Office is 287 members and it would be good to meet some more of them at branch meetings and the AGM. Please note the change of venue for these meetings which are now held at the North Lodge Pavilion, North Lodge Park, Milton, CB24 6UD, only about half a mile from the old premises.

During the year the IWA has, nationally, been involved in a campaign to prevent the EA closing waterways on somewhat spurious excuses involving health and safety when it suits them not to do the required maintenance. The branch, along with Peterborough branch and the EAWA, has been involved in “Project Hereward” to re-open Welches Dam lock and the 40 foot Navigation up to Horseway lock which was closed by the EA illegally in 2006. In March 2017, as part of this campaign, members of both branches met Alex Mayer, MEP at the lock and she was very supportive of Project Hereward and the national campaign and wrote supporting letters to the EA and DEFRA.

Committee members have been involved in a number of outside initiatives including Thetford District Council's Little Ouse Waterspace Initiative, the Ouse Washes Partnership, Regional Navigation Group and CamCon. It is important to have a presence at these groups and that will be continued.

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## **Ouse News - Appendix 4 cont'd.**

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As usual the branch has been represented at Reach Fair with the WOW feature as well as the usual sales items and also at Ely Aquafest. We don't usually make any profit at these but the presence is important and it's good to chat with like minded visitors.

There is still nothing to report on either the EA / Cam Conservators (CamCon) interchange agreement of the navigation licensing above Bottisham lock. However, after a proposal to the Government from the Canal and River Trust (CRT) the transfer of the navigation responsibilities from EA to CRT has been put on hold. This will be re-considered by the Government when they feel the time is right.

The EA conducted two "consultations" last year. The first, concerning increasing the navigation licence by 7.5% which, despite widespread objection, was completely ignored. The other, however, had some notice taken. That was regarding the sale of three lengths of mooring in Ely. The level of objection was impossible to ignore even by the Agency! There are a number of reasons (too many to recount here) why this sale should not happen but the Agency was determined to continue with this asset stripping and the sale went ahead to the East Cambs District Council, so the moorings remain in public ownership and, hopefully, the businesses involved remain safe.

I am delighted to announce that I no longer need to make my usual appeal for a new social secretary! Sharon Oliver has been co-opted onto the committee and is due to be substantively elected at the AGM. We are delighted to welcome her aboard.

The IWA National Festival of Water is this year to be held at St Neots. This event will be held, mostly, on the land opposite the Priory Centre. More details and booking forms can be found on the website, to which I recommend a visit anyway via [www.waterways.org.uk](http://www.waterways.org.uk) and follow the links from there for the branch or festival sections.

*John Hodgson*

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# Ouse News - Appendix 5

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## TREASURER'S REPORT & ACCOUNTS 2017

### Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2017

|                                    | £                      |                      | £                      |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| Balance at 1 Jan 2017              | <u>2,548.17</u>        | Current assets:      |                        |
|                                    |                        | Debtors              | 0.00                   |
| Surplus/(deficit) for year         | 330.68                 | Current account      | 100.00                 |
|                                    |                        | Business Premium a/c | 2,778.85               |
|                                    |                        | Cash, Sales Officer  | 0.00                   |
|                                    |                        | Less liabilities     | 0.00                   |
|                                    |                        | Creditors            |                        |
| <b>Balance at 31 December 2017</b> | <u><u>2,878.85</u></u> |                      | <u><u>2,878.85</u></u> |

### INCOME & EXPENDITURE

| INCOME                        | £                    | EXPENDITURE                          | £                    |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Collections at meetings       | 156.00               | Mailing of information letter        | 25.77                |
| Branch sales                  | 350.35               |                                      |                      |
| Donations:                    |                      | Guest speakers                       | 40.00                |
| Branch sales of donated goods | -                    | Purchase of Sales stock              | 144.00               |
| Meeting refreshments          | 40.00                | Rotary Club: Aquafest                | -                    |
| Income from Advertising       | 306.00               | Meeting costs                        | 244.48               |
|                               |                      | Raffle costs                         | -                    |
|                               |                      | Subscription: EAWA                   | 10.00                |
| Interest received             | 0.47                 | Officers expenses (Postage)          | 20.16                |
|                               |                      | printer ink & paper                  | 40.00                |
| Uncashed cheque               | 40.00                |                                      |                      |
|                               |                      | items for WOW                        | 37.73                |
| Raffle at Reach BBQ           | -                    | IWA Sales reconciliation             | -                    |
|                               |                      |                                      |                      |
| Total Income                  | <u><u>892.82</u></u> | <i>Excess of income/ expenditure</i> | <u>330.68</u>        |
|                               |                      | Total Payments                       | <u><u>892.82</u></u> |

### Notes:

Enid Hodgson

Treasurer

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